

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: examiner's comments are made to summarize the focus of the reasons for allowance indicated by applicants. Though the applied and known prior art teaches the application of alpha alumina powders in a manner that would cause surface scratches and also would incubate the growth of alpha alumina, it is not obvious from the prior art applied or from other known prior to perform the application in a manner further including washing away the scratch-inducing material in order to incubate such growth.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSEPH MILLER JR whose telephone number is (571)270-5825. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 7am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1792

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JOSEPH MILLER JR/
Examiner, Art Unit 1715

/Bret Chen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1715